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SEPTEMBER 5th, 1944

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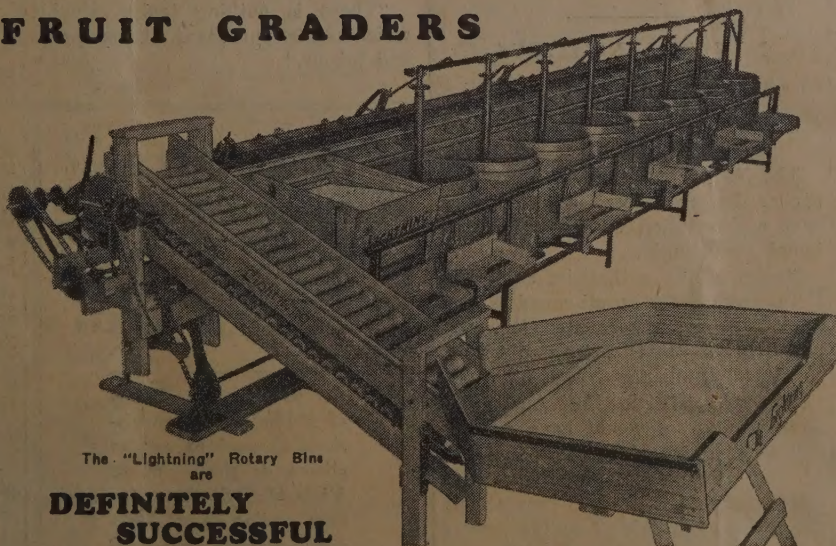
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New Zealand

CONFERENCES OF FRUIT-GROWERS have been held at main centres in N.Z., and delegates selected for the Annual Conference of the N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Federation in August.

The Hawkes Bay Fruitgrowers' Conference was held at Hastings, Mr. A. M. Robertson presiding. In attendance were representatives of the Federation, the N.Z. Dept. of Agric. and the Internal Marketing Division.

Appreciation was expressed for the efficiency of the Fruitgrowers' Federation, its trading policy and sound financial position.

It was decided to request the marketing of the 1945 crop on the same lines as in 1944.

Mr. T. C. Brash, President of the Federation, said that post-war arrangements were a world problem, and he did not anticipate a return to complete freedom in marketing. Some form of reasonable planning would be essential to ensure orderly marketing.

The conference by resolution affirmed the principle of planned marketing after the war.

On the question of the £25,000 reserve held by the Government for uneconomic orchards, the Conference decided to ask all fruitgrowing districts to survey the position and lodge claims immediately.

:: :: :: ::

At the Nelson Conference, the chairman, Mr. L. B. Robinson said that although the Fruit Marketing Council had been criticised because it was weighted too heavily in favour of the Government to the detriment of grower representation his experience as a member had completely dispelled any such feeling and the Council was functioning well and harmoniously.

Mr. W. Benzie, of the Internal Marketing Division, gave details of the operations of the Fruit Marketing Council.

At the Auckland Conference the chairman, Mr. A. B. Congdon, said that the Advisory Committee favoured a continuance of the present system of marketing pip fruit.

Mr. T. C. Brash said the agreement signed last January was for one year

only: the resolution for the conference agenda should include the words "the 6/- per case overall average guarantee."

:: :: :: ::

Record Apple and Pear Crops.

Hawkes Bay Celebrates its 1,000,000th Case for One Season.

In the 1944 season the Hawkes Bay district produced 1,100,000 cases of Apples and Pears, besides large quantities of stone fruits. Celebrations were held and the millionth case was suitably inscribed.

Mr. J. H. Milne, President of the Hawkes Bay Fruitgrowers' Association, said that the 1944 crop was produced off 1,684 acres. The Apple average was 1,398, with an average per acre of 625 bushels, and the 286 acres of Pears averaged 524 cases per acre.

For the past five years the average production was 403 bushels per acre, the average total being 780,000 bushels per year.

[The foregoing is summarised from "N.Z. Orchardist."]

NEW ZEALAND CITRUS INDUSTRY.

Growers Seek Higher Lemon Prices.

The N.Z. Citrus Council is seeking higher Lemon prices, and recently sent a deputation to the prices tribunal accordingly.

Replying, the authorities said that if the request for an all-round ceiling of 30/- a case was granted, it would mean that the retail price would have to be 1/8 per lb. for Grapefruit, compared with 11d. lb. for Australian Oranges. This would have a very bad effect on the future development of the Grapefruit industry, and growers would be wise if they accept the present schedule of ceiling prices.

The deputation showed production costs, based on a block of 500 trees, thus:—Labour cost—1939 (accepted figure), £350 p.a.; 1942 wages, £361 one man at £4/9/- and one youth at £2/10/- per week; 1944 wages (man, £5; youth, £3). Production per acre was 525 loose bushels, and the labour

cost per acre was, 1939, £70; 1942, £72; 1944, £83. The increase was stated to be 5d. per case.

Later, the authorities put forward three proposals for the acceptance of one without further compromise—

(1) Flat rate of 22/6 bus, all the year round.

(2) That the present schedule of ceiling prices be altered to—

May-August, 20/- case.

September-October, 22/6 case.

November-April, 25/- case.

(3) That the existing schedule of prices 17/6, 22/6 and 27/6 over the three periods be maintained.

These proposals were referred to growers. It was agreed that the month of May be included in the high price period for Meyer Lemons.

To the Stabilisation Commission submitted, the deputation submitted details of increased labour costs, and was informed that their requests were being placed before the Minister.

OUR TAME PHILOSOPHER SAYS:

Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider.

—Bacon.

"There is nothing truly valuable which can be purchased without pains and labour."

SUPERPHOSPHATE RATINGS FOR 1944-45.

The Director of Agriculture in Victoria, Mr. H. A. Mullett, announced that the ordinary ration of superphosphate for non-priority crops and pastures for the current year, July 1944 to June, 1945, would probably be double the quantity that was available for the 1943-44 year, thus bringing the ordinary ration to one-half of normal usage. Dairy farmers and those with irrigated pastures may expect the same total supplementary ration as they received last year, and the full quota for such farmers should be approximately equal to the normal quantity of superphosphate used. The quota of super. issued to Victoria is allocated by the Department of Agric., according to a list of priorities determined by the Commonwealth Authority.

Full details of the rationing plan will not be finalized until later in the year. In the meantime, farmers who require super. may draw an advance on their total quota for 1944-45, but the advance is not to exceed an amount equal to the total of the ordinary and supplementary rations received for 1943-44. No quota will be due, however, in respect to superphosphate which was obtained in 1943-44 under special permit issued for priority crops or any other purpose.

Farmers must order their requirements from the same company or distributor from whom they purchased their super. last year. Those who normally use the bulk of their super. in the Spring and who now require their full quota for 1944-45, should submit their case to the Fertilizer Section, Dept. of Agric., 81 Collins-street, Melbourne.

Where a property is sold or leased, the new occupier should take the necessary steps for the superphosphate rations for the property to be transferred to him, as, under the Rationing Plan, "the ration goes with the land."

Special allotments of fertilizer are being issued for potatoes and vegetables and application should be made on the "priority crop" form. Allotments for priority crops must not be used for any other purpose.

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September 5th, 1944

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

The spectacular successes of the United Nations' armies against Germany and her satellites presage an early conclusion of the European war. Then will come the full weight of the United Nations to compel the unconditional surrender of Japan.

After the war problems are already being discussed. Some form of international co-operation will be necessary to prevent scrambling for export markets.

Apples and Pears in Cool Storage. The following statement showing the quantities of Apples and Pears reported to be held in cool stores in Victoria has been released by the Government Statist:—

	30th June. 1944.	31st July. 1944.
	Cases.	Cases.
Apples	1,345,000	1,184,000
Pears	182,000	113,000

It is noted by the industry that this quantity of fruit in cool storage is above the average. However, in view of the increased spending power of the public, it is expected that these quantities will be cleared by the end of the season.

Soil Erosion. The announcement that Dr. N. C. Beadle has completed a weighty report on soil erosion in the western areas for the New South Wales Government draws attention to the gravity of this menace to rural industry. Australia, like many of the dust-bowl areas of the United States, suffers increasingly from soil erosion, and what measures have been and are being taken to combat it, are by no means heroic.

For over four years, Dr. Beadle has made an intensive study of an area of over 150,000 square miles, and his report indicates that two of the main causes of erosion are the depletion of native trees and other vegetation, and consistent overstocking of properties. Carrying capacity has been alarmingly reduced in many areas, and huge tracts will become more seriously affected if control measures are not taken in hand with firmness and foresight.

War Agricultural Committees are doing a splendid job throughout the Commonwealth in educating the farmer towards co-operation and up-to-date methods, and in the fight to save valuable lands these bodies could per-

form a service to the whole nation. The main features of Dr. Beadle's report should be made available to them, and his conclusions and recommendations be studied so that an educative campaign might be undertaken. In this way the man on the land would be impressed with the paramount importance of rehabilitating useful lands that are to-day rapidly becoming arid deserts.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Daylight Saving Opposed.

At the recent Premiers' Conference at Canberra a resolution was unanimously adopted opposing the reintroduction of daylight saving.

Canada's food output has been increased by more than 40 per cent. since the war.

Obituary

Flt./Sgt. John Small, R.A.A.F., son of Mr. J. Small, of Wm. Cooper and Nephews Pty. Ltd., Sydney, was killed in an aircraft accident in Scotland on July 20. Flt./Sgt. Small, who was 23 years of age, had been interested in aeronautics since he left school, and had seen service in Canada, the Bahamas, and the British Isles.

Many South Australian growers, particularly those who have visited Melbourne, will learn with regret of the sudden death of Mr. H. H. (Harry) Lancaster, who for many years was in charge of the rail receiving work of McRostie & Growers Pty. Ltd., the Association's Melbourne freight agents. Mr. Lancaster's courtesy to growers has always been appreciated. He carried out his duties in an efficient manner, and his passing will be a loss to the industry.

IN MEMORIAM.

Prof. A. J. Perkins, Sth. Aust.

South Australia in particular, and Australia at large, lost a noted citizen when Prof. A. J. Perkins, previously Sth. Aust. Director of Agriculture, died in June last. Prof. Perkins was born of English parents at Tunis, and gained his early schooling in England. After experience as man-

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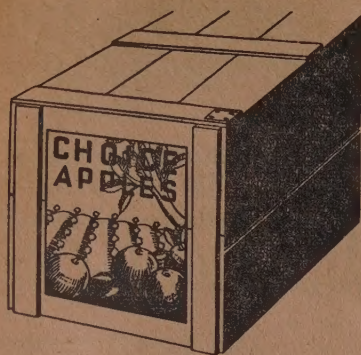
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MILDURA DISTRICT NOTES.

(A.E.C.)

A prisoner of war control centre may be established in the district as the result of a meeting held in Mildura at the end of July. The War Agricultural Regional and Industry Committees have been active in bringing about a decision on the matter.

Use of this labour should enable maintenance work to be done which had been more or less neglected for several years.

Although the early days of July produced the best rain of the season, when an average of about half an inch was recorded in the district, the month has been a very dry one on the whole. A special citrus irrigation was provided, and about half of the district plantings were watered. By the middle of August the first general irrigation of the season will be in progress, unless heavy rain intervenes. It is desired to complete the watering of vineyards before "bud burst," which normally occurs about September 8 to 10. There is also a strong demand for the provision of a frost prevention watering in September. The season has been characterised by protracted spells of frosty weather and it is feared that if these seasonal characteristics are maintained, Spring frosts may do serious damage to those vineyards which are at all disposed to "dry out" between irrigations, and particularly those on the lower contours.

The total production of the district of dried Sultanias, Currants and Lexias in 1944, is now stated to be an all-time record. Pre-harvest estimates were exceeded by many thousands of tons and the result is most gratifying, as according to usually accepted indications such as numbers of bunches, average temperatures, etc.; the crop should have been as much below that of the previous year as it proved to be above it.

The Winter citrus crop is steadily moving out of growers' hands and is generally speaking up to expectations. Sizes, on the average, are smaller than normal for Navels and Lemons have been slow in gaining factory size. Some loss of crop was suffered by Lemon growers, whose groves were damaged by frost at the end of June. Much of this fruit has been salvaged by the Mildura Co-operative Factory and used for by-products, which do not require standard quality fruit. All first grade fruit is being carefully culled for market and factory quota, the frost affected proportion going into by-products as stated. Pasteurisation and canning of Orange and mixed citrus juices is

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in full swing and with the slackening of deliveries of Oranges in a few weeks, a changeover to Grapefruit can be expected.

It has recently been emphasised that Grapefruit should not be picked too early for canned juice production, as it lacks the maturity which provides the mellow characteristic flavour which is so highly valued in this fruit.

Some citrus fumigation for red scale is proceeding in Red Cliffs and Merbein. Daylight work is the rule at this time of the year, and because of this there is a great deal of interruption owing to wind. Nevertheless, it is being persisted with, as it has been found impossible to complete the full district programme in the Summer months, owing to labour shortage. It is understood that the "kill" of scale is just as good now as at any other time, and there is the added advantage that there should be very little multiplication of the survivors of the treatment, prior to the setting of the new crop in November. On very scaly trees, young fruits are liable to be severely "pitted" by scale which infests them in the tender stage, and the damage thus done is irreparable. Winter fumigation is regarded by many as getting in early on the job, although in some respects it is the reverse. March April and May treatment can be classed as late work, as fumigation then cannot be expected to provide clean fruit of the Currant crop. Although most of the scale will be killed, it will usually remain attached to the fruit. Winter and Spring treatment is calculated to provide clean fruit for a start, and may need to be followed up in January or February to destroy the "build up" from survivors.

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PEAR-LEAF BLISTER MITE.

Control by Early Spring Spraying.

This cosmopolitan species of mite, which is exceedingly small and cannot be seen with the naked eye, sometimes causes considerable injury to Pears. The mites pass the Winter sheltering beneath the bud scales. In the Spring, as soon as the buds commence to open, the mites become active and the females begin to lay their minute, spherical eggs, and also commence to feed upon the surfaces of the young leaves.

The mite may be controlled by spraying with lime-sulphur diluted at the rate of 1 gallon of concentrated lime-sulphur solution to 10 gallons of water. This spray should be applied preferably in the late Autumn, when most of the leaves have fallen, or in the early Spring before the buds burst.

WOOD-ROTTING FUNGI.

Fruit trees are subject to the ever present menace of attack by the various wood-rotting fungi frequently found in orchards. The commonest cause of damage is *Polystictus versicolor*, which causes death of the wood on which the bark becomes loose and papery. Other varieties of fungus have different symptoms, but, in most cases, attack is followed by a decline in vigour of the affected limb and its subsequent death. If the disease extends to the main stem, the whole tree may die.

For control of such diseases, Mr. G. W. Gayford, of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, advises the practice of the following measures:—

Removal of all visible sources of infection by grubbing out severely infected trees. The cutting out of affected limbs at least one foot below the source of infection, and destruction by fire of all infected wood.

Avoidance of damage to trees during ploughing or other cultural operations.

Large wounds or pruning cuts should be trimmed with a sharp knife and painted over with either a bitumen or white lead paint to prevent entrance of fungi. After treatment inspect cuts from time to time and repaint if there is any sign of surface cracking.

APRICOT SCAB.

Apricot Scab (Shot Hole) is caused by a fungus which affects leaves, buds and fruit. Affected fruit is unfit for canning or for marketing in the fresh state.

Mr. S. Fish, Biologist of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, points out that the disease appears on the fruit usually after a period of humid or wet conditions in October, and develops as crimson spots on the exposed side of the fruit. Later the spots become hard and scabby. The leaf reacts against the infection, and the disease area is cut out, thus producing the characteristic "shot hole" effect.

During the autumn, winter and spring the fungus will kill the buds if conditions are favourable to it. The spores between the bud scales germinate and infect the buds, which then become black and shiny. The fungus overwinters in these spores and infects the leaves and fruit in the following spring. Experimental work conducted by the Department of Agriculture under Goulburn Valley conditions showed that thorough spraying with Bordeaux Mixture 6:4:40, applied just as the final leaves are falling (about the end of May), and again at the pink bud stage (about the middle of August), reduced the percentage of infected Apricot fruits in three years from 7 per cent. to 2 per cent.

For commercial growers, Bordeaux Mixture may be prepared by dissolving 12 lbs. of finely crystalline copper sulphate in 72 gallons of water in an 80 gallon spray vat. Then mix 12 lbs. of hydrated lime with 8 gallons of water, start the agitators on the vat, and slowly pour the lime solution into the vat.

VICTORIAN FRUIT CROPS.

In a report issued by the Victorian Dept. of Agric. early in August, it was stated that Pears, Peaches and Plums are showing prospects of satisfactory crops, but bud development of Apples indicates a light crop.

Large quantities of Apples are held in cool store.

Water storages in the Bendigo and Horsham districts are low and unless heavy rain falls in the catchment

areas, irrigators supplied from these sources will be short of water during the Summer.

Severe frosts early in the month caused considerable damage to citrus in Northern areas. In the Mildura area, where temperatures dropped to 23 deg. F., frosted Lemons, which amounted to 20 per cent. of the crop, are being sent to a local factory for oil extraction. Very few Navels or Valencias were visibly affected, but some were damaged internally. No damage was noticeable on Grapefruit.

Citrus trees growing in low-lying areas in the Swan Hill district were severely affected, 100 per cent. of the Lemons, 50 per cent. Valencias and Grapefruit and 35 per cent. Navels being damaged. About 80 per cent. of the Lemons in the Rochester district were affected, but other varieties were damaged to a lesser extent. Fumigation of citrus at Mildura has been restricted by weather conditions.

Vegetables.

Planting of Carrot roots for seed production is proceeding in the Murray Valley districts. At Mildura, early Tomatoes are being planted out with board coverings for protection. In mid-season districts, seed beds have been sown.

In South Gippsland ground is being prepared for canning Pea crops.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Dehydration Prospects.

Albany:

Speaking at Albany recently, the Director-General of Agriculture, Mr. F. W. Bulcock, said he was enquiring into the district's capabilities for continuity of supplies of Potatoes and other vegetables, also Apples, and would consider the establishment of a dehydration plant.

Mt. Barker:

Recent visitors to the Mt. Barker Apple dehydration plant were Messrs. H. C. Menzies, C. J. Lee and C. Christie (Commonwealth Food Control).

This is the second season this plant has operated. This year the output will be about 100 tons (period from March to August).

Substantial quantities of Apples were also sent to the juice factory at Donnybrook.



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Extract from "BETTER FRUIT," by Dr. R. L. Webster, Entomologist, State College of Washington, Pullman: **CODLING MOTH COVER SPRAYS**—"Ever since the imposition of an arsenic tolerance in 1926, and even before that time, investigators have been testing other materials which may be used in place of lead arsenate. Following all these intensive and extensive investigations lead arsenate appears to have certain inherent qualities which place this material foremost as an insecticide for codling moth control."

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FRUIT GROWERS generally have come to depend on "Elephant" Brand Sprays. They find them absolutely reliable, efficient and of guaranteed quality.

Goulburn Valley News and Notes

(By Our Correspondent.)

GOOD CROP PROSPECTS — GENERAL DROUGHT CONDITIONS, BUT WATER STORAGE DEEMED SUFFICIENT FOR FRUIT CROPS — PEAR MARKETING CONTRACT — TOMATO GROWERS' MEETING.

Mooroopna (August 25):

THE PROSPECTS for another good fruit crop on Goulburn Valley orchards are very promising. Bud development is excellent.

Early Apricots and Trevatts are already in full bloom and promise good crops. The Moorpark variety is not showing up so well and will be somewhat lighter than last year.

Canning Peaches are looking particularly well and promise another good crop. They will be in full bloom in another week.

Pears of all varieties are showing up well, but too early to forecast.

August has been a very busy month, with spray pumps going at full pressure and a rush to get the

pruning finished by the end of the month.

Growers are finding great difficulty in getting the work done on time, owing to the acute shortage of labour which seemed more pronounced this year than last, in fact most orchards are 25 per cent. understaffed.

Conditions in all northern Victoria have now reached a critical stage.

August has been a very dry month with a succession of heavy frosts, pastures are almost bare, and crops at a standstill. Chaff is almost unobtainable as all local supplies are exhausted, and to make up the shortage, consignments are coming into Victoria from N.S. Wales and Tasmania.

Owing to the extreme dryness of the season the Water Commission Channels are full and a commencement has been made irrigating pastures and oat crops, and some growers are requesting water to irrigate their Apricots.

Fortunately the Commission storage reservoirs are all full, with the exception of the Waranga basin, and irrigation will save the situation for the fruitgrowers.

New Pear Contract with Perrys.

Following the decision of Ardmore Fruitgrowers to market their late Pears with the Blue Moon Packing Co., the executive of Shepparton Fruitgrowers' Association has negotiated a new contract with S. J. Perry and Co. involving acceptance of 90,000 cases of W.B.C. Pears.

The new contract provides for the following prices: Packhams, Josephine, Winter Nelis Pears, 8/- (fancy) grade, 7/6 good grade. Beurre Bosc, Winter Cole, 7/- (fancy), 6/- good grade. Doyenne de Comice and Glou Morceau, 6/6 (fancy), 5/6 good. W.B.C. Pears, 6/- and 5/6.

Under the new contract, Perry and Co. agree to accept 90,000 W.B.C. Pears from Shepparton growers.

To provide better unloading conditions, provision is also made regarding a bonus payment.

It was stated that before a Central packing shed was established, there was no market control, and growers suffered financially through the subsequent gluts. Therefore it was essential that every grower should sign a contract, otherwise they would be helping to break down an organisation which had been so successfully built up over the last 20 years.

Shepparton Tomato Growers' Association.

The annual meeting of the Shepparton Tomato Growers' Association was held at the beginning of August.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. W. Galt (re-elected); Vice-Presidents, Messrs. E. Laws (senior), T. Treviskis (junior); Secretary, Mr. A. T. B. Goyen; Treasurer, Mr. P. Connelly.

It was decided to increase the Secretary's salary from £50 to £100 p.a. Messrs. T. Dobson, J. Pearce, A. W. Taig, G. R. Davies, H. Ismail, L. Pither were elected to the Committee.

A good year of progress, both financially and in the organisation of the industry, was reported.

Letters of appreciation were ordered to be sent to the Railway Department, Food Control, and the Department of Agriculture, for the splendid job they did in handling the crop.

A special vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. W. Harris, Department of Agriculture, for his excellent handling of the P.O.W. labour in picking the Tomato crop.

The Treasurer's report revealed a satisfactory position.

DROUGHT IN NORTHERN VICTORIA.

Worst for Over Forty Years.

Unless rain falls in the next few weeks many thousands of horses and a million sheep will perish in N.W. Victoria, states the Victorian Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Martin).

This drought appears to be the most severe since 1902. Chaff is being brought in from N.S.W. and Tasmania. Strenuous efforts are being made to find agistment areas in more favoured regions in other parts of the State.

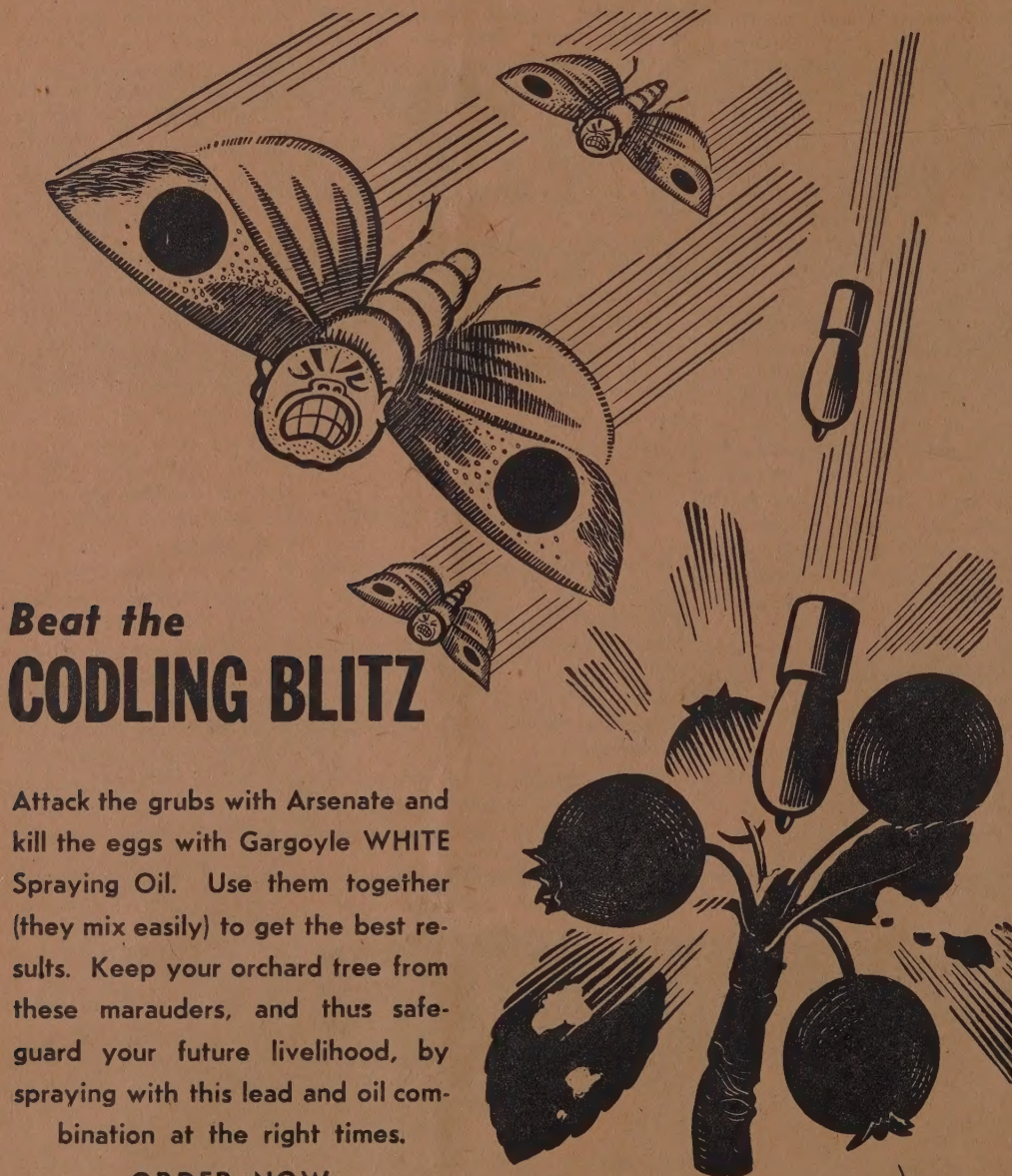
New Peaches

Orders for Yellow Centred Peach Trees, recently imported from America by Mr. W. Young of Kelvin Orchard, have been so numerous that supplies of all varieties are now sold out for 1945 delivery.

C. J. Goodman, Nurseryman, Bairnsdale, who has the SOLE RIGHT of obtaining buds from the trees on Kelvin Orchard, will be pleased to accept bookings for 1946 if orders are placed at once.

For further particulars, write to

C. J. GOODMAN,
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Victoria

Seasonal Horticultural Report.

Light Apple Crop Expected.

PRUNING continues to be the most urgent job on deciduous orchards, and most growers will find difficulty in completing this work, states the Victorian Dept. of Agric. in its report for August. High prices are being paid for contract pruning, although the quality of the work is not always entirely satisfactory.

Sprays for the control of bryobia mite are being applied to Apple and Pear trees. Black Peach Aphid is apparent on some trees in the Goulburn Valley, and sprays of nicotine are being applied for the control of this pest. Growers have been scraping the butts of Pear trees in an endeavour to reduce the number of overwintering codling moth larvae.

Because of the cold Winter, there has been little tendency for Peach buds to jump and a good crop of fruit can be expected. Apricots have commenced blossoming and show promise of satisfactory crops in the Goulburn Valley and Werribee districts.

Other varieties of stone fruits and Pears show promise of good crops, but Apples are expected to be light.

Almonds have finished blossoming and good crops are anticipated. Passionfruit vines in the North-East have been severely damaged by frost. Dry conditions continue on Northern orchards and irrigation of citrus, Apricots and Peaches has commenced.

An early irrigation for green crops in the Mildura area resulted in increased growth and crops are being knocked down prior to ploughing in.

Most of the citrus crop now being harvested in the Rochester district is being sent to factories because of severe frost damage. All frosted fruit from Mildura and Swan Hill is also being sent to factories for oil extraction.

Fumigation for Red Scale control in the Mildura area is in progress, and it is expected that many groves will be treated before blossoming.

Pruning is almost completed on dried fruit blocks and vines are now being irrigated.

Vegetables.

Planting out of early Tomatoes continues in the Horsham, Mildura and Swan Hill districts. Some of the early planted Tomatoes at Swan Hill were damaged by frost and had to be replanted. Tomato growers in the Bendigo district are concerned about the uncertainty of the water supply for the coming season.

Planting of Carrot roots for seed is now practically completed. Vegetable growers in non-irrigated areas are concerned about the dry season, but are going ahead with soil preparation in anticipation of good Spring rains.

ZINC TREATMENT FOR "LITTLE LEAF" OF FRUIT TREES.

Replying to a correspondent who wished to know where to obtain zinc nails and spray materials for the control of "Little leaf," Mr. A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist) states that the zinc nails used in Departmental experiments were specially cut for the purpose from a zinc sheet. These sheets are not on the market at present.

Zinc sulphate is obtainable from Adelaide Chemical and Fertilizer Ltd., the approximate price being 15/- per cwt. for agricultural quality, and 30/- for commercial. Both are satisfactory for Winter sprays, but the former contains a certain amount of grit and other impurities and is not suitable for foliage sprays.

The zinc sulphate is applied "straight" for Winter sprays. For Summer sprays it must be rendered insoluble with lime, as is copper sulphate in Bordeaux mixture.

Zinc treatment has given responses in widespread areas, but the response is by no means universal. Deficiency of zinc in the tree gives rise to fairly characteristic symptoms, and growers would be wise to seek the advice of their District Horticultural Adviser before commencing treatment.

FOR SALE.

Buzacott Fig. 450 Orchard Spray Cart fitted with Buzacott 4 H.P. vertical engine and double outfit, in excellent condition. For full particulars apply the Agent for the Public Trustee, Court House, Lithgow, or the Public Trustee, 19 O'Connell-street, Sydney.

SYDNEY GREENGROCERS. Friction With Prices Commissioner.

Members of the N.S.W. Fruit Shopkeepers' Association feel that they are being unjustly treated through the Prices Order covering the sale of certain fruits, which are sold wholesale per case but on which the retail margin is fixed per pound. This also occurs in the case of bunched vegetables which they are forced to purchase at a price per dozen bunches, but which they retail by the pound.

Repeated representations were made to the authorities to have some adjustment made, but without success, and in order to draw attention to their claims they decided on a boycott of the Sydney markets on Wednesdays. In actual fact, the boycott had little or no effect on the purchasing of fruit and vegetables, as all retailers purchased sufficient on Tuesday to carry them over Wednesday's market, while the country order merchants and other buyers operated as usual on the Wednesday. Publicity was given, however, to the boycott, and after three weeks, it was decided to discontinue the boycott and to take other action.

The first intention was for retailers to increase the margin of profit to 33½ per cent. on the lines in question in defiance of prices orders, but later this decision was reversed and the whole matter is now the subject of negotiation.

The opinion is growing, following on the experience of price fixation, that this is not necessary in the fruit and vegetable industries, and is not fulfilling any purpose. It has led to accusations of black marketing in all directions, both by growers, agents and retailers, and has upset the orderly distribution of scarce lines.

APPLES AND PEARS CEILING PRICES FOR SEPTEMBER.

Ceiling prices for Apples have been increased as from September 1, from 21/- to 23/- per bus. in Sydney, and from 19/- to 21/- in Melbourne.

Ceiling Pears prices for all capital cities except Brisbane advanced from 22/- to 24/-. (The maximum wholesale price in Queensland would represent prices as established at other centres plus cost of freight to Queensland.)

Maximum retail prices advanced 1d. per lb. on Apples and ½d. per lb. on Pears. (The maximum retail price in Melbourne as from September 1 is 8½d. per lb. for Apples, and 9c. per lb. for Pears.)

PERSONAL.

Mr. F. Sawyer, one of the original members of the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, who recently resigned because of ill-health, was entertained at morning tea by members of the Council on August 9th. Mr. Sawyer's experience in the Banana trade has been of great value to the industry. The hope was expressed that Mr. Sawyer would soon resume his normal activity.

QUEENSLAND ROYAL COMMISSION.

Report on Fruit and Vegetable Industry Prepared.

The report of the Royal Commission on fruit and vegetable production and marketing in Queensland, was submitted to the Queensland Premier in August. It is expected that after consideration by the State Cabinet it will be published. Those desiring copies are asked to advise the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Brisbane, as soon as possible, so that orders for sufficient copies can be placed. The price is not yet known.

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(Standardised Copper Fungicide)

● Nicotine Insecticide

(40% Nicotine)

Obtainable at all Fruitgrowers' Associations, etc.

COLLAR ROT OF CITRUS.

Collar rot is one of the most serious diseases of citrus trees. It is caused by a fungus which attacks the bark of the tree near ground level. The bark dies and later dries out and splits. A copious development of gum usually accompanies the other symptoms, so that the disease is sometimes referred to as Gummosis. The diseased area extends, and finally may completely girdle the trunk. The leaves of an affected tree become pale in colour. The veins usually fade first, giving a pattern of yellowish veins on a green background. Finally, the entire leaf becomes yellow, and if steps are not taken to control the disease, the tree may die.

Mr. S. Fish, Biologist of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, points out that the trouble is favoured by bad drainage and consequently proper drainage is an essential step in its control.

Soil should not be heaped round the trunk and the tops of the main roots near the diseased area should be ex-

posed, as the disease often spreads into these roots.

Cut away all the dead tissue with a sharp knife and paint the area with one of the pastes recommended hereunder:—

If trees are to be subsequently fumigated with hydrocyanic acid for scale insects, the use of a paste containing high concentrations of copper is dangerous. In this case growers should use a paste of 1 lb. of zinc sulphate, 1/5th lb. of copper sulphate, and 1 lb. of lime to 1 gallon of water.

If no fumigation will be carried out, a paste of 1 lb. of copper sulphate, 2 lb. of water-slaked lime, and 1 gallon of water may be used.

CITRUS RED SCALE.

The importance of co-operative community effort for control of citrus red scale, was recently stressed by Mr. C. J. R. Johnson, Assistant Entomologist, Victorian Dept. of Agric. Spread of the pest was greatest from areas where there were neg-

lected trees. Fumigation was important. The emphasis should always be upon elimination of major infestations.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Citrus Research Station Desired at Gosford.

The establishment of a Citrus Research station at Gosford, N.S.W., is sought by local and other growers. Replying to a deputation from the Gosford District Agricultural and Citrus Association, the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Graham, said proposed sites at Gosford would be examined.

The deputation pointed out that losses due to growing fruit on worn-out lands: hundreds of citrus growers in N.S.W., each valued at from £2,000 to £3,000 had ceased to function whilst they should be in their prime. The sum of £10,000 was estimated as the cost of establishing the proposed research station.

Fruit and Vegetable Juices

Their Value to Health in War and Peace.

Big Future for Industry Forecast. Need for Adequate Standards.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICES have an important bearing on health.

This was stated, and the reasons given in detail in a paper by Vernon L. S. Charley, B.Sc., Ph.D., before the British Food Education Society in May of this year.

Fruit juices include Citrus, Apple, Black and Red Currant, Raspberry, Loganberry, Lime, Grape, Passion-fruit, Strawberry, Blackberry, Cherry, Gooseberry, Plum, etc.

The principal vegetable used for juice production is the Tomato (please note this is classified as a vegetable).

Rose Hips Are Used for Fruit Syrups.

Dr. Charley gives comparative tables of statistics showing the amazing increase in the consumption of fruit juices in Europe and elsewhere prior to this war.

For instance, in Germany, in 1926, the annual consumption of Apple juice was 500,000 gallons; this had increased in 1939 to 27,000,000 gallons.

By 1937 the consumption of Apple juice in Switzerland amounted to 8,000,000 gallons.

In America the consumption of Tomato juice increased from 700,000 gallons in 1929 to 75,000,000 gallons in 1941. Other large increases were Grapefruit—from 522,000 gallons in 1929 to 49,000,000 in 1940; Orange juice from 114,000 gallons—1929 to 5,200,000 in 1938. Other fruit juices (including Apple) from 3,000,000 gallons in 1929 to 36,000,000 gallons in 1938.

Tables are also given showing the vitamin C and other health qualities in the several fruit juices.

Freshly expressed citrus juice is rich in vitamin C, but Black Currant juice is richer; Strawberry and Red Currant are nearly as high as Lemon; slightly better than Grapefruit, with Raspberry only slightly behind.

Other health elements in the several fruits are important. These include pectin, mineral ash, together with the general tonic effect on the system.

Sir John Boydon, the noted British authority, in his recent book "Food and the People," envisages the growing of fruit, in England, directly for fruit juice production.

Fruit juices, continues Dr. Charley, have the advantage of being readily available throughout the year.

The ordinary consumer who wishes to maintain buoyant health as well as the patient being treated for some specific ailment, is thus not subject to the vagaries of the fresh fruit season for his supplies.

This paper by Dr. Vernon Charley, is very stimulating in its outlook. The paper will be published in greater detail in subsequent issues of the "Fruit World."

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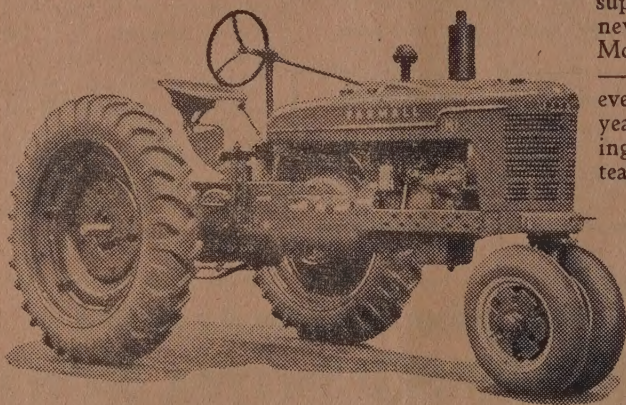
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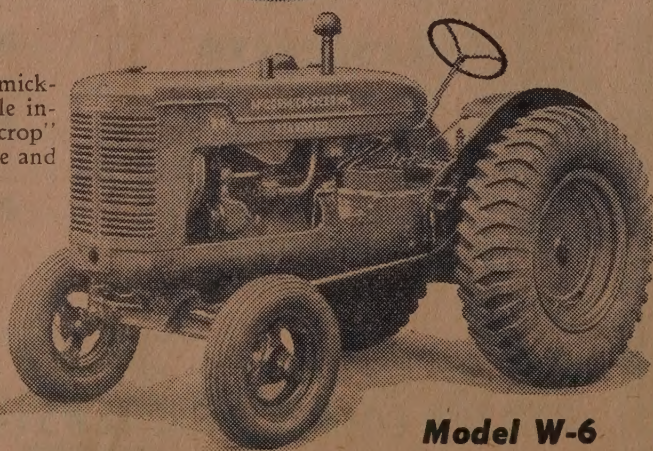


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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND NOTES

Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.

S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Inc.

Minutes of meeting of Executive Committee held Friday, August 25, 1944, at 10.30 a.m., in the Newmarket Board Room, Adelaide.

Present: Messrs. R. A. Cramond (President in chair), G. H. Schultz, H. W. Parsons, W. H. Ind, F. F. Redden, C. H. Ragless, J. Turner, R. B. Pritchard, W. J. Bishop, A. E. Brealey, Legh Winsor, H. N. Wicks, C. J. Pitt, D. W. Hannaford, J. B. Randall, L. B. Pfeiffer, L. J. Wicks, N. J. Hobbs, C. Ridley, M. G. Hannaford, G. J. Jennings, J. D. Yeatman, H. B. Robson, O. Essalbach, W. Wye, A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist). An apology was received from Mr. A. R. Martin.

South Eastern Growers: The Secretary reported that it had not yet been possible for the sub-committee appointed at the last meeting to make the visit to Mt. Gambier to meet Potato Growers in the South-Eastern Districts. Mr. Pitt suggested that the sub-committee meet at the end of this meeting to make final arrangements concerning the trip.

Correspondence: Letters received from Hon. J. B. Chifley, Federal Treasurer, Senator R. V. Keane, Minister for Trade and Customs, and the Premier of South Australia (Mr. T. Playford). The correspondence was received as read.

Vegetable Hold-up: The Secretary reported that on Wednesday's press an announcement from Canberra fixing the ceiling prices of various vegetable lines was published. The Prices Schedule was considered by growers to contain anomalies in some lines, and a mass meeting of growers, wholesalers, and retailers was held in the market when feeling ran high. It was not known who was responsible for calling the meeting. The meeting, however, decided to wire the Prices Commissioner and ask for the suspension of the order until the industry could place its case before the Prices Branch. On Friday (this morning) another mass meeting of growers, wholesalers and retailers was held in the Stadium, and as a protest it was decided that no fruit and vegetables be distributed on Monday and Tuesday of next week. This meeting, like the first meeting, was not called by any official body. The decision of the meeting was received with mixed feelings.

Mr. A. E. Brealey moved: "That a sub-committee be appointed to prepare a case for growers setting out the anomalies for presentation to the Prices Commissioner." Seconded Mr. C. L. Winsor. Carried.

Sub-Committee: Resolved that the sub-committee mentioned in the preceding motion be Messrs. N. T. Hobbs, C. J. Pitt, W. Nicol, G. H. Schultz, L. J. Wicks, J. B. Randall, W. J. Bishop and A. R. Martin.

Sectional and Branch Reports.

Society: Mr. W. J. Bishop stated that the Society had, during the past month, distributed fair quantities of nitrate of soda. Organic manures, however, were very scarce.

Apple and Pear Section: Mr. C. L. Winsor reported on alterations to the Apple and Pear marketing scheme.

Citrus Section: Mr. O. Essalbach reported that the factory position was now more satisfactory.

Tomato Section: The Secretary reported that supplies of Tomatoes would be light as the result of the recent frosts.

Cudlee Creek and Paracombe Branch: It was reported that the stores were full of Apples.

Marion Branch: Mr. H. W. Parsons reported that the annual meeting of the branch had been held early in August. He reported on the registration of a Co-operative Society within the branch for the disposal of Almonds.

Onkaparinga Potato Branch: Mr. L. B. Pfeiffer reported that the annual meeting of the branch had been held recently when the Premier addressed the growers.

Delegates to Society Committee of Management: The retiring members from the Society Committee of Management, Messrs. W. J. Bishop and L. J. Wicks, were re-elected unopposed.

Nomination: The Secretary reported that nomination for officers of the Association for the 1944/45 financial year closed on August 31, 1944.

POTATO SCAB AND SEED PIECE DECAY.

Control by Seed Treatment.

J. A. Beare, B.Ag.Sc. (District Horticultural Adviser).

Potato scab, and seed piece decay both cause considerable losses in Potato crops in the Adelaide Hills, the latter especially in crops sown late in December or early January.

Scab Control.

Treatment of seed Potatoes by dipping in fungicides to control seed borne scab infection is rapidly becoming standard practice in the district. Formalin and corrosive sublimate have been used in the past, but have given way to proprietary organic mercurial compounds which are simpler and safer to use.

The object of a trial carried out at Lobethal this year was to determine the efficiency and desirable concentration of a new proprietary compound, containing mercury in a more soluble form than hitherto, as the active ingredient.

This was used at concentrations of 2 oz., 4 oz. and 8 oz. per 10 gall. of water, the two lower concentrations being used both on cut and uncut Potatoes.

Seed Piece Decay.

Incorporated in the same trial were treatments designed to reduce seed piece decay.

Treatments used were:—

- Cutting the setts one week prior to planting and holding under damp bags until planting.
- Dipping cut setts in a suspension of zinc oxide containing 5 lb. of zinc oxide per 10 gall. of water (Bald*).

The complete treatments were:—

- Tubers dipped in mercurial dip before cutting at 2 oz. per 10 gall.
- Tubers dipped in mercurial dip before cutting at 4 oz. per 10 gall.
- Tubers dipped in mercurial dip before cutting at 8 oz. per 10 gall.

- Tubers dipped in mercurial dip after cutting at 2 oz. per 10 gall.
- Tubers dipped in mercurial dip after cutting at 4 oz. per 10 gall.
- Undipped. Cut immediately before planting.
- Dipped in zinc oxide 5 lb. per 10 gall. after cutting.
- Undipped. Cut one week before planting.
- Dipped in 2 oz. mercurial dip and 5 lb. zinc oxide per 10 gall. after cutting.

With the exception of treatment 8 all tubers were cut, treated and planted on the same day.

At the time of planting all tubers were well greened and carried healthy shoots $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long.

Plots consisted of 25 plants in a single row, treatment being replicated three times.

The ground in which the trial was planted had been under pasture for 7 or 8 years previously, and had been well prepared for planting. The soil was a strong loam.

Planting was done on January 2, 1944, planting distance being 30 in. x 18 in., and each sett was planted approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep in a hole made with a garden hoe. The area was not watered until germination was complete.

Results.

Seed-piece Decay: The total number of plants harvested in each treat-

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Inc., will be held in the Institutes Buildings, North Terrace, Adelaide, on Friday, September 29, 1944, at 2 p.m. The Premier (Mr. T. Playford) will open the meeting.

Formal notice of the meeting, the guest speaker and business to be transacted, will be sent to growers in due course.

ment out of 75 setts planted is given in Table I.

Table I.

Treatment.	No. of Plants.
1	75
2	75
3	75
4	75
5	74
6	71
7	70
8	70
9	75

It will be seen that germination was excellent throughout, and it is doubtful if any conclusions can be drawn from the above figures. However, none of the dipping treatments had any apparent harmful effect on the young shoots or on cut surfaces.

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Scab Control: The percentage of scab is shown in Table II.

Table II. — Per cent of Slight and Commercial Significant Scab in Potatoes in Trial.

Treatment.	Per cent.Scab.		
	Slight.	Moderate.	Total.
1	2.4	1.8	4.2
2	0.6	0.0	0.6
3	0.3	0.0	0.3
4	2.4	0.1	2.5
5	2.5	0.6	3.0
6	17.6	8.2	25.8
7	1.2	0.2	1.4
8	19.3	10.6	30.0
9	0.5	0.0	0.5

Treatments 6 and 8, which were not dipped, differ significantly from all other treatments, but other differences are not significant.

The mercurial compound was effective at all strengths, and can be re-

commended for use at the concentrations of 2 oz. to 4 oz. per 10 gall.

An interesting feature is the effect of zinc oxide in scab control. This treatment in this trial proved as effective as the mercurial compounds.

The gross yields from plots grown from treated seed were generally rather higher than from untreated seed, but these differences were not statistically significant. The main gross yield was approximately 10 tons per acre.

Summary.

Seed-borne scab was controlled effectively by a new proprietary organic mercurial compound at 2 oz., 4 oz., and 8 oz. per 10 gall., and by zinc oxide at 5 lb. per 10 gall.

Dipping after cutting had no ill effect on tubers, and the dips at the strengths used apparently caused no

damage to the young shoots. The commercially significant scab in plots grown from untreated seed was approximately 10 per cent., representing a loss of 1 ton per acre.

Acknowledgment: The author desires to thank Mr. B. H. Graeber for making land available for this trial, and for caring for the growing crop.

*Bald, J. G.: The effect of zinc oxide on the cut surfaces of Potatoes. Journal A.I.A.S., Vol. IX., March 1, 1943.

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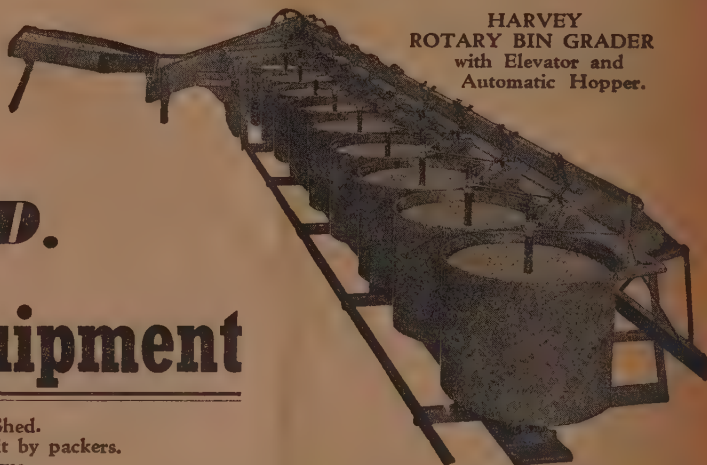
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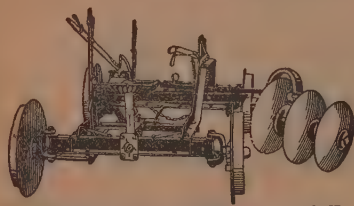
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DRIED FRUITS

N.S.W. DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

Interesting Annual Report.

THE TOTAL PRODUCTION of dried fruits in N.S.W. for 1943 was 11,570 tons as follows:—

Dried Vine Fruits.

	Tons.
Currants	1,298
Sultanas	7,270
Lexias	600
*Totals	9,168

Dried Tree Fruits.

	Tons.
Prunes	2,231
Peaches	66
Apricots	104
Nectarines	1
Pears	—

TOTAL 2,402

The foregoing is included in the 1943 annual report just to hand of the N.S.W. Dried Fruits Board.

Other matters referred to in the report include the following:—

Twenty-two packing houses were registered during 1943.

Civilian consumption of dried vine fruits in Australia in 1943 was approximately 20,000 tons, representing an increase of 3,000 tons on immediate pre-war figures. Despite the increased allocation, full civilian requirements were not met. However, the Commonwealth Government was not in a position to release additional supplies due to Service and Overseas requirements. Supplies for civilian consumption were distributed by the Australian Dried Fruits' Association to wholesalers on an equitable basis.

Under present conditions there appears little possibility of increased civilian supplies during 1944.

Manpower and fertilizer problems demanded attention. These were overcome through the co-operation of the manpower authorities, War Agricultural Committees, and the Women's Land Army.

Post-war Reconstruction.

The Board advised the Commonwealth Rural Reconstruction Committee that it was desirable to form an Interstate body to advise on industry problems, including water supplies and future plantings. No increase in plantings is recommended.

The continuance of preference in U.K. and Canadian markets was deemed imperative.

Prunes—Moisture Content.

During previous years civilian consumption of Prunes showed a pro-

gressive annual increase due to largely the marketing of soft processed Prunes in tins, and extensive publicity.

Recently the bulk of the Prune pack has been required for the Services.

Proposals to restrict the moisture content of Prunes for the Services have caused concern because of the possible effect on post-war consumption, and the effect on the financial returns to growers.

Prunes—Premature Drop.

Investigations by the Dept. of Agric. on the premature drop of D'Agén Prunes, a serious problem on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, suggest that the problem has some relationship to soil fertility.

Dehydrators.

Forty-five (45) dehydrators were registered during 1943. The plants are situated as under:—

Young District	28
Griffith District	14
Leeton District	2
Batlow District	1

Publicity.

Advertising was conducted to a limited extent to preserve consumer goodwill. A trust fund has been established for extensive advertising in post-war years.

The report is signed by Mr. G. J. Evatt, chairman. The other members of the Board were Messrs. E. J. Hudson (Yenda), L. B. O'Donnell (Curlwaa), J. C. Granger (Kingsvale), and P. C. Cox (Hanwood).

VICTORIAN DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

A meeting of the Victorian Dried Fruits Board was held in Melbourne on July 13. There were present Messrs. Parker J. Moloney (chairman), F. M. Read, S. R. Mansell, H. V. Davey, A. Rawlings, D. E. Barry Wood and D. A. Cockroft.

The chairman reported that Mr. Frank Cetinich, Irymple, was convicted at the Mildura Court on June 20 on each of two charges of obtaining drawback fruit from more than one packing house, and was fined £10 with £2/4/6 costs on each charge.

Dried Tree Fruits: The chairman referred to possible large scale post-war developments of dried tree fruits.

Mr. Barry Wood (dried tree fruits representative on the Board) stated that he viewed with concern any material expansion in the industry unless markets were assured.

It was noted that the A.D.F.A. had notified distributors that it was anticipated the quantity of fruit which will be allocated to the Commonwealth market from the 1944 season's crop would be sufficient to supply buyers with the equivalent of their 1942 purchases, and that it was also thought that possibly there would be additional quantities of Currants and Sultanas available.

Dried Vine Fruits—1944 Pack.

Mr. Moloney reported on the discussion which had taken place at a recent meeting, at which, in addition to himself, there were present: Messrs. E. J. Mulvany and R. M. Marx (Export Control Board), H. R. Jones (Co-operated Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd.), and L. F. Russell (A.D.F.A.). After an examination of statistics of revised estimated pack, it was agreed to accept, as a pack basis, a total of 102,000 tons (in round figures).

Valuable Publicity Work.

The chairman reported that Australian wide publicity work was being continued on the following lines: Two publicity officers (Messrs. Rumble and Weston) were fulfilling extensive itineraries in visiting State capitals and country districts, dressing grocers' windows and showing industry films at schools.

Posters on trams and ferries were being displayed, and a limited amount of press and picture screen advertising was being continued.

Films: It has been found necessary to renew two films: (a) Film showing all phases of dried fruits industry from the vine to the boxed fruit; (b) Animated films—of special attraction to children, showing in simple form the advantages of sun-dried fruits.

These films are shown by the publicity officers in connection with the industry's educational programme among senior pupils at schools throughout the Commonwealth. The Publicity Committee considers that this valuable work should not be interrupted.

Cookery Book: The war-time cookery book is in great demand and care is exercised in the matter of bulk distribution.

Reserve Fund: The reserve fund now stands at £2,500 and is being added to: this is designed for post-war

publicity. Much of this fund was invested in War Loans.

:: :: :: ::

Renmark, S. Aust., 9/8/44:

In reply to a deputation from the River Murray Dried Fruits industry, the Minister for Agriculture, Hon. W. J. Scully, stated that the Government intended to protect and foster the dried fruits industry.

The deputation, which consisted of Messrs. E. N. Seary, F. E. Hepworth and R. Curren, asked for more adequate labour and for the erection of hostels for seasonal workers. Apart from packing shed labour, urgent work was awaiting attention, including channel and road maintenance and cultural attention on vineyards.

The Minister said that a Disposals Committee would be set up to make direct sales of war materials instead of selling to speculators. If unused huts could be removed to serve the dried fruits industry, this would be done.

LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH.

Trouble in Dried Fruit Areas.

With all the characteristics of the codling moth, the ravages of the Light Brown Apple Moth are now viewed realistically in fruit-producing areas in the Murray Valley and elsewhere.

Speaking at a recent Agricultural Bureau Conference, Mr. C. G. Grasby (District Horticultural Adviser) said this moth was a menace.

Control measures for Grape producing areas, recommended by the authorities include: (a) Pruning to eliminate production of large tightly-packed bunches of Grapes; (b) Spraying with arsenate of lead in Spring; (c) Use of lure pots to indicate peak flights of the moth.

PINEAPPLE ACQUISITION.

Writ Issued by Queensland Grower.

Declaring that the Pineapple Control Order is invalid in that it does not provide just terms of acquisition, a writ has been issued against the Commonwealth Government by Mr. W. A. McClintock, fruitgrower, of Woombye, Queensland.

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Tasmanian News & Notes

Indications Favour a Fair Crop of Apples and Pears — Pest Control — The Blackbird Menace — Case Timber and Fertilizer Shortage — Taxation Authorities Should Allow Depreciation on Orchards — Fruitgrowers' Defence Fund — Some Reasons for Tasmania's "No" Vote — Notes and Comments.

(By Our Correspondent.)

Hobart (21/8/44).

PRUNING IS WELL ADVANCED in most northern orchards, and Winter oiling is progressing in some. Ploughing is also under way where green cropping is part of the routine.

Pears are well budded on the average and well advanced. Apples are showing fairly well, though Jons. and Dunns are light in places. There have been some very severe frosts during the Winter.

The drying factories will soon be stopping as the fruit will not be suitable much longer.

There are a large number of Italian Ps.O.W. in the Tamar Valley, and in most instances they are satisfactory.

The fertilizer shortage still continues, and though the orchards are showing the want of it, they have stood up to starvation better than I expected in most cases.

.. ..

In the southern districts the Winter has been cold and wet, there has been a little sunshine the past two weeks with heavy frosts at night. In spite of the cold weather blossoming looks as though it will be right on time.

Pruning is rather behind hand in many orchards also ploughing. There are some heavy crops of Lupins and Beans to plough under, the wet Autumn having suited them.

Winter oiling in many instances will have to be omitted for want of time.

Red spider will in many cases have to be treated with lime sulphur in the pink and calyx stage, and as I mentioned before a lot of growers add oil to the Greentip Bordeaux.

The factories are all working still and will continue to do so as long as the fruit is fit for the various purposes.

The general indications are for a fair crop of most varieties of Apples and Pears if conditions at setting time are favourable.

The shortage of available timber in handy positions for containers is getting more acute each year and will soon constitute a major problem. The cost is likely to increase still further owing to long distance cartage.

The berry fruit growers are seriously perturbed at the increasing threat of the blackbird menace. It is estimated that they take at least 10 per cent. of the crop, which is worth approximately £400,000. Personally, I think they take or destroy quite that percentage.

The egg shortage is over for the season, the large increase in the number of fowls should insure full supplies permanently. Butter production is still on the down grade, and it will take years to re-establish the dairy herds.

The heavy taxation is having a rather serious effect on the mental outlook of primary producers. Many formerly energetic men are not so energetic as they used to be and do not see much sense

in doing overtime in order to produce a little more to be taxed out of it. They are becoming more inclined to take things easier.

There is a suggestion that the Taxation Department should allow depreciation on orchards when they pass the age of maximum production and begin to steadily decline in production. Sooner or later they have to be grubbed, and the capital invested in them has to be written off just the same as with farm machinery.

After 40 years of full bearing, most orchards planted on seedling stocks begin to deteriorate, and few are profitable after 60 years. Blightproof stock have a shorter life still. This is a problem that many orchardists are facing at present, and it should be taken up seriously with the Taxation Department. The neglect owing to wartime conditions is hastening the deterioration.

A discussion took place at the last meeting of the State Fruit Board on a proposal to enlarge scope for which the

Fruitgrowers' Defence Fund

could be used. This fund was established some twenty years ago by a levy on overseas shipments with the sole object of contesting claims for bad carriage on overseas ships. It is now considered that the fund should be made available to protect the interests of fruitgrowers in other respects as well as the original object. The amount to the credit of fund is now over £10,000 and increasing as interest accumulates.

In Tasmania the failure of the Government to deal with strikes effectively, while punishing individuals severely for breaches of the manpower regulations increased the Re-

ferendum "No" vote considerably, as did the fact that the "Yes" campaign was partly paid for by the taxpayer. Many more voted "No" because all fourteen questions were put as one. Personal interests of course influenced many more. Some of the strongest opposition came from Labour supporters in the rural districts.

There are rumours that the Transport Board in Tasmania intends to take over freight and passenger services; if this is correct it will meet with very serious opposition from the general public. Under normal conditions both services were satisfactorily run by private enterprise.

TASMANIAN STATE FRUIT BOARD.

A meeting of the Tasmanian State Fruit Board was held at Hobart on August 17, Mr. T. G. Thompson presiding.

Fruitgrowers' Defence Fund.

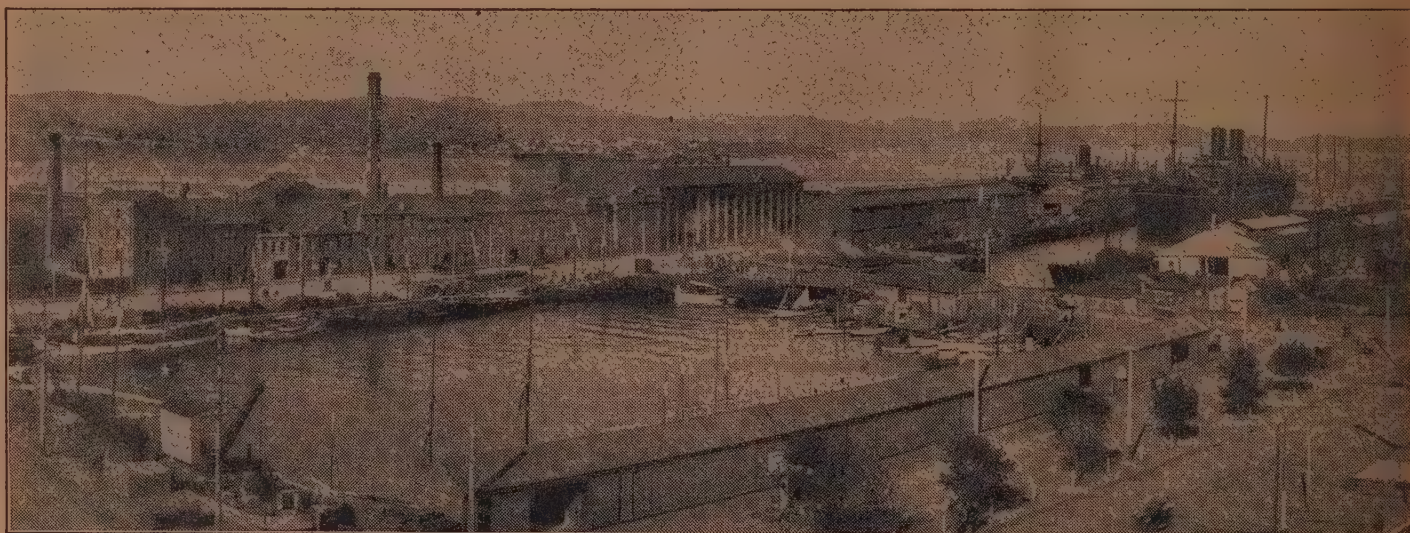
Three of the trustees (Messrs. L. S. Taylor, B. J. Pearsall and C. O. Smith) of the Fruitgrowers' Defence Fund (which stands at £11,000) were present to discuss aspects of the proposal for the introduction of a Bill to transfer control of the money

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"Rostrevor," "Clifton," "Pinnacle,"
"Beautiful Isle," "Sunny South," "B.P.,"
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MANAGING AGENTS:

Tasmanian Apple Evaporators' Association.

Australian Commonwealth Carbide Co. Ltd.

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Federal Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.,
Scottish Shire Line,
Blue Star Line Ltd.,
Port Line Ltd.
(Fruit Vessels Northern Tasmania),
American & Australian Line,
Transatlantic S.S. Co. Ltd., Sweden.

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LONDON OFFICE: F. W. MOORE & CO. LTD., Clarence House, 8 Arthur Street, E.C.4.

It was stated no objection to the transfer would be made if the original contributors indicated their consent. The fund had been established to safeguard the interests of growers in regard to claims on faulty carriage of fruit.

The chairman and Mr. J. S. Bulman suggested that the scope should be widened to protect growers who shipped interstate.

The question of taking a referendum of contributors was proposed and the matter was deferred till next meeting.

Future Exports.

A resolution was adopted to the effect that the greatest benefit which the Federal Government could confer on the fruit industry would be the negotiation of favourable trade agreements with European countries, and development of markets in the East with the provision of sufficient refrigerated shipping.

TASMANIA.

After-the-War Controls.

It will be remembered that the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Apple and Pear industry recommended a continuance of acquisition for the duration of the war, and as long as National Security regulations apply.

Speaking at Cygnet in mid-August the leader of the Tasmanian Opposition in the Tasmanian Legislative Assembly said that the Federal Government had power to continue Apple and Pear acquisition after the close of hostilities if it wished to do so. As the Defence power enabled the Federal Government to put Australia on a war footing so it could put the country back on a peace footing by orderly steps determined by circumstances after the war.

Orchardists and Fruit Cool Stores' Association

Present and Future Cool Storage Needs :: Research Orchard for Southern Victoria :: Ceiling Prices :: Mould in Cool Stores :: Dipping to Preserve Apples.

Mr. D. W. Lechte, the recently-elected President of the Orchardists and Fruit Cool Stores Association of Victoria, presided at the quarterly meeting of the Association, held at the C.T.A., Melbourne, on August 29.

The President stated he had attended a meeting called by the Director General of Food Supply, to ascertain the probable amount of storage space required for the coming season. Those present were mainly concerned with the storage of meat and dairy produce. On behalf of the fruit growing industry, Mr. Lechte had reported it was probable, in view of the next season's prospects for a fairly light crop, that the space available in the fruit cool stores would be sufficient to handle all the storage that would be required. In fixing the priorities for various commodities for cool storage, Mr. Massey, Director General, advised that fruit was actually on the bottom of the list and that vegetable storage had a priority over it. In view of probable conditions in the fairly near future, Mr. Massey said it may be necessary to remove fruit from cool storage and put vegetables in its place. He hoped this would not be necessary, and if it had to be done compensation would be paid, but conditions may make it essential and he hoped that fruit growers would realise the difficulties of the position. As far as other commodities were con-

cerned fruit cool stores were not, of course, suitable for storing other commodities than vegetables, and they would not be called on to do so.

A report was also made regarding the deputation to the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Martin), requesting the early establishment of a research orchard and cool store to serve the southern areas of the State. The deputation (arranged by the Association), and which was supported by kindred fruit growers' organisations had pointed out the need for new varieties and improved root stocks, to ascertain the best means of combating pests and diseases and also to carry out experiments in maturing.

In reply, the Minister said their case was a sound one and he was entirely sympathetic to the request. The matter of cost was important, but he would have the matter investigated and a case prepared for Cabinet.

A report was also made on behalf of the Committee which had been appointed to consult with the Prices Commissioner on the fixation of ceiling prices for Apples and Pears. With the announcement of the price up to the end of the season the Committee felt that this work had been completed for this season, although it had made other requests to the Prices Branch. However, it was decided that the Committee would continue in existence to deal with any matter that may arise.

A motion was passed requesting the Minister for Commerce to enforce the request for non-destruction of cases. The increasing difficulty in obtaining sufficient cases was stressed by speakers and that many, particularly those going to military camps and other service depots, were being destroyed, which was aggravating the position.

A motion was also passed urging the Federal Treasury to permit fruit-growers to set aside out of their profits a sum each year by way of reserve in maintenance and depreciation. Growers were unable to carry out maintenance work at present owing to the difficulty of obtaining labour, and as a result they were showing fictitious profits.

Mr. T. Gannon read a paper on the chemical control of mould in cool stores by Mr. T. O. Mitchell, of the Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., prepared for the Institute of Refrigeration. The paper set out the various causes of mould and the conditions in which it thrived, and also set out some of the means of combating it.

Regarding the skin coating treatment of fruit, Mr. F. A. Seed (Vacuum Oil Co.) explained that his company's experiments, although there had been some failures, particularly in the metropolitan area during the past season the majority of the fruit that had been dipped had kept very well and the company's product had all that it had been claimed for it.

THE APPLE INDUSTRY OF N.S.W.

A valuable review of the Apple industry of N.S.W. was recently compiled by Mr. H. Broadfoot (Chief Fruit Instructor) and E. C. Whittaker (Fruit Instructor) of the N.S.W. Dept. of Agriculture.

The review deals with the three main essentials—climate, rainfall and soil—and points out the wide divergencies in present production, especially in marginal areas.

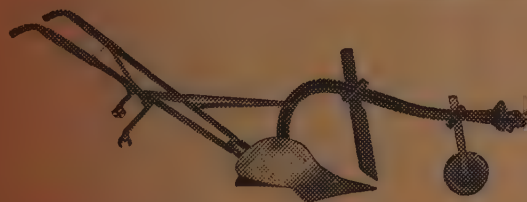
The most suitable districts for Apple growing are Batlow, Orange and Armidale.

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UNEXCELLED FOR WORK IN LOAMY SOILS.

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The Extra-High Landslide prevents the gathering of trash or soil.

The Heavy Steel Beam of double-bobbin section, is 20 inches high at the throat and gives ample clearance when ploughing.

Length overall 7 ft. 6 in., Soft-centre Mouldboard 22 in., 9 in. polished Welded Steel Share.

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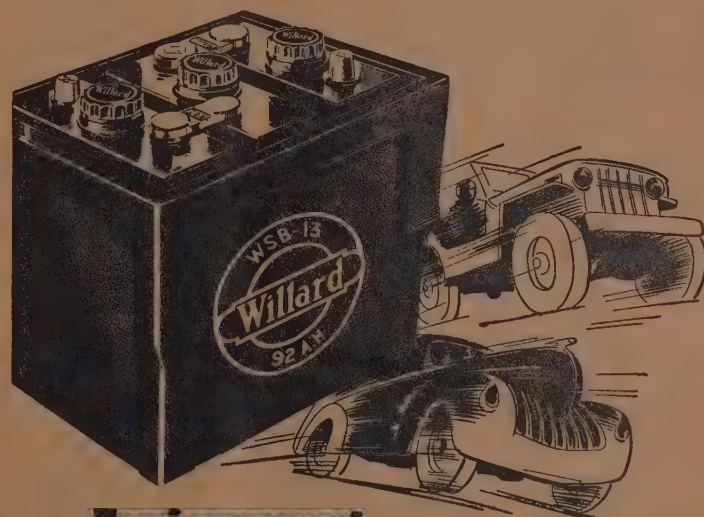
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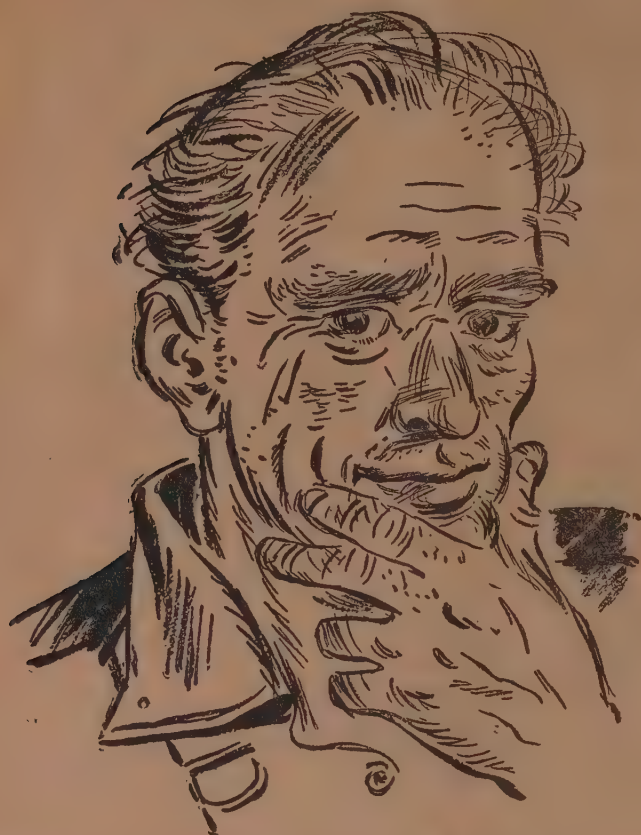
on two fronts . . .

In tanks, trucks, jeeps . . . and in scores of other military applications, Willard Batteries are serving on many fighting fronts. On the home front, too, Willards are serving long and well . . . providing dependable power for essential civilian cars, trucks and tractors. These are the things that make friends for Willard Batteries.

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Doesn't anybody care about the man on the land

Too right we do—at Eveready. "Oh, yes?"—says the man on the land. "Well, why was I done out of the invasion news? And all our favourite radio programmes, too, because we couldn't get a new set of batteries at any price?"

That's been giving us at Eveready more than a few grey hairs, because your goodwill is going to be all-important to us after the war. It only stands to reason that we'd do all in our power to keep that goodwill, doesn't it?

But, war orders poured in on us. We've been making batteries for everything from walkie-talkies to mine-detectors.

Now, here's the good news!

We're catching up on the terrific pressure of war orders, but we're not stopping for breath. We're continuing flat-out to try and catch up on civilian needs... and we know that the civilian battery that is most urgently needed is the radio battery

for the man on the land. But, don't forget that even after the batteries leave our factory there may be delays in transport, and that's something over which we have no control. Believe us—we're going flat-out!

EVEREADY

TRADE-MARK

EVEREADY (AUST.) PTY. LTD.

Australian Vegetable Grower

GARDENING HINTS FOR SEPTEMBER.

(Compiled for Sth. Vic. Conditions:
Plant Earlier for Warmer Districts.)

Now is the time for planting French and Climbing Beans, Pumpkins, Marrows, Cucumbers, Carrots, Parsnips, Turnips, Radish, Parsley, Peas, Kohl Rabi, Mustard and Cress.

Plant seed or seedlings of Cabbage, Lettuce, Onion, Leek, Red and Silver Beet. Plant roots of Herbs, Rhubarb, Asparagus and Seakale, tubers of Artichokes and Potatoes.

.. ..

Varieties of Beans include Canadian Wonder, Brown Beauty, Feltham Prolific, etc.

The Waxpod or Butter Beans are worth growing; though the pods are yellow when mature, this does not detract from their usefulness for home use; the plants are prolific bearers.

Plant Climbing varieties of Beans, both annual and perennial, such as Epicure, Kentucky Wonder, Scarlet Runner, Giant White Mammoth, etc.

Sow seeds of Navy Beans in commercial plantations.

Prepare ground for planting seed and seedlings of Cape Gooseberry.

Sow seed of Cabbage, St. John's Day and others in a seed bed, and transplant the seedlings in November December.

In beds where seedlings are now standing these can now be transplanted to their cropping positions.

Among the Flowers.

Dig over unoccupied ground and enrich with decayed manure. Remove faded plants and put in seedlings of Delphinium, Wallflower, Scabious (Pin Cushion Flower), Canterbury Bells and Sweet William. Plant seed of Mignonette, Ten-Week Stocks, Sunflowers, California and Shirley Poppy; seed or seedlings of Antirrhinum, Carnation, Lupin, Nasturtium and Petunia.

Plant evergreen trees, shrubs and climbers.

N.S.W. VEGETABLE GROWERS' CONFERENCE.

The annual conference of the Vegetable Growers' Association of N.S.W. was opened in Sydney on August 15th.

After a brisk debate on the contract system, conference adopted a resolution "to press for an extension of the contract system to cover 50 per cent. of both service and civilian requirements, and to send a deputation to the Prime Minister to protest against the breach of faith of his responsible officers, who supported such extension when they met the Association in February."

Speakers alleged that there had been a breach of faith by the Food Controller (Mr. Murphy), the Prices Commissioner (Prof. Copland), and the Director-General of Agriculture (Mr. Bulcock). The President, Mr. Tasker, said the growers had been supported by those officials, who expressed the opinion that contract production was the only practical method to implement minimum prices, and help to offset the imposition of ceiling prices. He added that the Federal Cabinet had decided against an extension of the contract system to cover a portion of civilian needs. Such decision meant that the grower, who produced to the maximum, would have to receive glut prices in the event of a glut market. It should be the policy of every grower to regulate his production in an effort to obtain payable products, but the Government would have to give a guarantee that, if maximum production was required, growers would be paid for their labour and work.

Conference agreed that planned production in the vegetable industry was essential; opposed the retention of ceiling prices; urged that steps be taken in all areas to support an association of growers' co-operative societies; and recommended that district councils of the association be formed, and that negotiations be undertaken to form a Commonwealth organisation representative of growers.

FOR CARROT CROPS.

Under the name of pool kerosene weedicide, a special blend of power kerosene for weed destruction in Carrot crops has been put on the market by the Government. Provided it is used in accordance with the official formula, the blend proves most efficient, without damaging Carrots.

In ordering supplies of pool kerosene it will be necessary for the grower to mention the acreage of his crop, and declare that the mixture is to be used solely for weeds. Cost will be 1/5³ per gallon, equivalent to £3/5/1 per 44-gallon drum, plus 15/- deposit on the drum, freight forward.

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Melbourne,

ESTATE
C.I.

VEGETABLES IN N.S.W.

At the annual meeting of the N.S.W. Vegetable Growers' Association, held at Sydney in mid-August, an address was given by Mr. Geo. Evatt, Deputy Food Controller, following which some delegates launched an attack on the Federal Government for its alleged failure to honour its commitments in relation to contracts to growers of Carrots.

.. ..

The President, Mr. A. E. Tasker urged the formation of an Australian-wide Vegetable Growers' Association.

.. ..

Mr. H. Wenholz, Deputy Chief, N.S.W. Division of Plant Industry said that owing to the raising of the priority for lime, he did not think growers would have much difficulty in obtaining this commodity in the future.

The importance of good seed was emphasised and as stress was laid on the value of N.Z. certified seed it was decided to take up with the Australian Seeds Committee the matter of the importation of these seeds.

TOMATO PRODUCTION.

During the past season Victoria produced and processed 53,000 tons of Tomatoes for the armed forces. This quantity exceeded the target set by 3,000 tons. Growers in the Goulburn Valley were allotted a target of 1,500,000 bushel cases and their total production for the services was 1,584,076 cases, of which nearly 500,000 cases had been processed at Shepparton, the balance being treated at Melbourne, Bendigo and Echuca. Production at Bendigo for the services totalled 743,804 cases, the bulk of which was processed in Bendigo.

The contract price for Tomatoes in Victoria last season was 6/- a case of 48 lb. for canners and 3/- a case for "standard" or "pulp" quality. The area planted in the Goulburn Valley last year was approximately 3,000 acres, and it is expected that for the coming season growers will plant at least 4,000 acres. The variety usually grown in the Valley is Burwood Wonder, which, because of its shape, is not generally suitable for canning. The Department of Agriculture has advocated the use of Tatura Dwarf Globe, the area of which in the Goulburn Valley has been increased from only two acres in 1941-42 to 270 acres in 1942-43 and 1,173 acres in the 1943-44 season. Owing to its thin skin the Tatura Dwarf Globe, which was evolved by the Vic. Dept. of Agric., is not suitable for long distance transport and should be canned in the district in which it is grown. It yields well and some growers last year obtained from 1,000 to 1,400 bushel cases an acre.

VICTORIAN POTATOES.

Condition of Crop at August 9, 1944.

Acreage 1944-45.

Potato contracts received by the Vic. Dept. of Agri. on behalf of the Australian Potato Committee for the year 1944-45 are slightly in excess of 64,000 acres to date.

The majority of growers in the normally late districts have yet to lodge their applications. The con-

tracts most urgently needed are those covering deliveries in the period July to November, 1945. Contracts covering deliveries in November-December and January-February, 1945, closed officially on July 31.

Deliveries 1943-44.

Deliveries of Potatoes inspected between November 1st and June 30th totalled approximately 105,000 tons.

Correspondents from most districts outside the Central Highlands and the North East area report that late crops are yielding well, but that the proportion of third grade tubers is abnormally high.

Most late districts report stocks on hand as being greater than normal, and there is some doubt as to whether the market can absorb the total volume of third grade Potatoes still available.

It would appear that the market cannot absorb more than 170,000 tons of Potatoes from Victoria during the current season.

Prices.

The wholesale price obtained for No. 3 grade is £8 per ton, plus subsidy. Subsidies paid on third grade are proportionate to the prices at which the Potatoes concerned are sold.

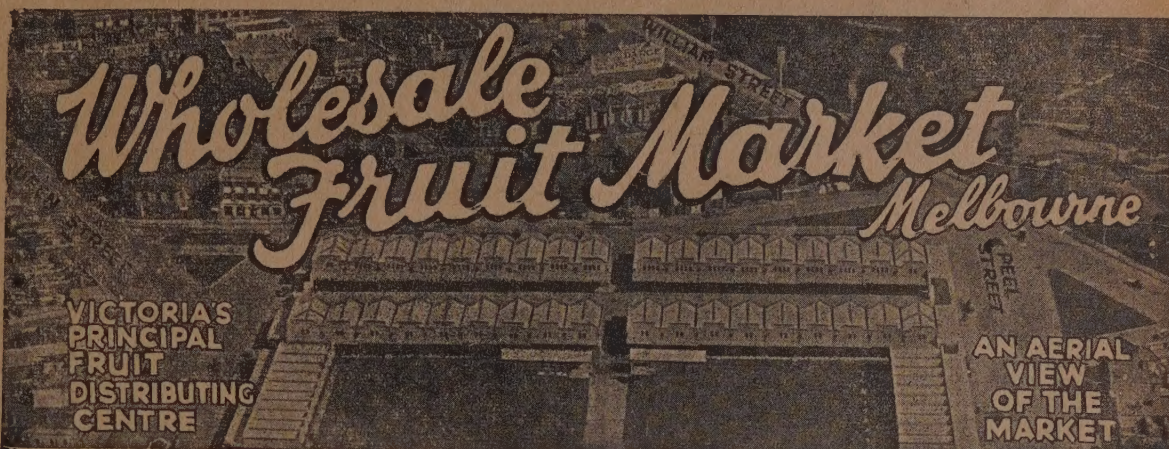
QUEENSLAND.

Deciduous Fruits.

At a recent meeting of the Deciduous Sectional Group Committee of the C.O.D., Mr. H. E. Phillips presiding, the matters dealt with included places for cool store and packing shed equipment, ceiling prices, grade standards, improvements at Thulimbah Packing Shed, case timber and opposition to daylight saving.

Appreciation was expressed for the services of Messrs. D. Pfrunder, W. Best and Boucher, who were retiring from the Committee.

The Secretary is Mr. E. L. Donaldson.



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Specialty—Prompt Returns. Cheques every Wednesday. Phone: F 1862.

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Quality Fruit well Packed
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Growers Will Receive Top Market Value and Prompt Returns.

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Pea and Bean Stands.

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Market Notes and Prices

NEW SOUTH WALES.
Sydney (30/8/44).
The State Marketing Board reports as follows:—

Fruit.
Apples: N.S.W. — Delicious 21/-, very small sizes from 17/-, Granny Smith 15/- to 21/-, Democrat 8/- to 16/-; Tasmanian — Granny Smith 15/- to 21/-, Democrat 9/- to 10/-; Interstate — Jonathan 8/- to 18/-, few 20/-, Rome Beauty 8/- to 16/-, few higher; West Australian—Granny Smith 18/- to 21/-. Pears: Victorian — Packham's Triumph 22/-, very small sizes lower, Josephine 22/-, small sizes from 15/-, Winter Nelis 15/- to 22/-. Oranges: Navel—Coastal 12/- to 18/-, very small sizes lower; Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area 10/- to 17/-, few 18/-. Lemons: Coastal 9/- to 12/-, specials 14/-, Mandarins: N.S.W. 10/- to 25/-, inferior lower, per bushel case. Bananas: All sizes—f.a.q., 7d. per lb. (weight 80 to 90 lb. per case), few inferior lower. Passionfruit: 15/- to 30/-. Avocados: 25/- to 30/-, per half case. Papaws: 10/- to 20/-. Pineapples: 12/- to 18/-, few 20/-, per tropical case.

Vegetables.
Peas: Choice 23/4, rain damaged lots lower. Beans: 4/- to 10/-, few to 18/- per bushel. Cabbages: 1/6 to 7/-. Cauliflowers: 4/- to 18/-, few specials to 22/-, inferior lower, per dozen. Lettuce: 6/- to 18/- per case. Carrots: 2/6 to 5/- per dozen bunches; bagged, 12/- to 22/-, few 25/- per cwt. Parsnips: 4/- to 6/- per dozen bunches; 14/- to 28/-; inferior lower, per cwt. White Turnips: 1/6 to 2/-. Rhubarb: 3/- to 8/-, few higher. Spinach: 1/6 to 3/-. Celery (local): 9/- to 18/-. Parsley: 12/- to 24/-. Radishes: 1/6 to 2/-. Beetroot: 4/- to 6/- per dozen bunches. Tomatoes (N.S.W.): 10/- to 20/-, special coloured to 24/-; inferior lower; glass-house, 20/- to 24/-; repacked, 15/- to 24/-; inferior lower; Queensland, 10/- to 18/- per half case. Swedes: 10/- to 12/-, inferior lower. Pumpkins: 16/- to 20/-. Sweet Potatoes: 16/- (nominal). Potatoes: 1st grade 7/10½ per cwt. (nominal). Cucum-

bers: Green 15/- to 17/- per half case. Brussels Sprouts: 6/- to 14/-, few 16/-, inferior lower, per dozen lb. Mushrooms (cultivated): 2/6 to 3/6 per lb.

VICTORIA.
Melbourne (2/9/44).
Fruit.

Bushel cases, unless stated. — Apples, eating, 12/- to 20/- (max. 21/-); do., cooking, 10/- to 16/-, few Granny Smith to 20/-. Oranges, Navel, 10/- to 16/-, few to 18/6 (ceiling); do., common, 8/- to 12/-. Lemons: 12/- to 20/-, ceiling. Mandarins: 12/- to 22/-, few to 30/-. Pears, dessert, Packham: 18/- to 22/-, few to 24/-; other varieties, 14/- to 20/-. Pears, culinary, 12/- to 18/-. Papaws: 22/- to 30/- double case. Bananas (green): 6½d. to 6¾d. per lb.; ripe, to 7½d. lb. Pineapples: 22/- to 27/6 double case (5½d. lb. max.). Passionfruit: 20/- to 40/- half case.

Vegetables.
Beans, Broad: 20/- to 32/- 50 lb., few to 56/-; do., kidney, 48/- to 54/- 50 lb.. Beetroot: 10d. to 1/- doz., ceiling 17/- cwt. Beet, Silver: 2/6 to 4/- doz. bunches. Cabbages: 5/- to 10/- doz. Carrots: 2/- to 4/- doz. bunches, ceiling 21/- cwt. without tops, 16/- cwt. with tops. Cauliflowers: 8/- to 14/- doz., few to 16/-. Celery: 6/- to 9/- doz.; do., Adelaide, 28/- to 36/- double case. Garlic: 1/6 to 1/9 lb. Horseradish: 1/- to 1/3 bundle. Leek, 5/- to 9/- doz. bunches. Lettuce: 5/- to 14/- case, few to 16/-. Mint: 2/6 to 3/6 doz. bunches. Melons, citron: 8/- to 18/- doz. Onions, green: 2/6 to 3/- doz. bunches; Silver, 1/6 to 3/- doz. bunches. Parsley: 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches. Parsnips, 3/- to 5/- doz. bunches, ceiling 23/- without tops, 18/- with tops. Peas: 32/- to 40/- 50 lb.. Potatoes: 10/- to 10/6 bag. Pumpkins: 12/- to 36/- doz., 10/- to 15/- bag. Radish: 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches. Rhubarb, 3/- to 5/- doz. bunches. Savoys: 4/- to 5/- doz. Spinach: 4/- to 6/- doz. bunches. Sprouts: 5/- to 9/- doz. lb. Tomatoes: 15/- to 20/- half case. Turnips: 2/- to 3/- doz. bunch.; do., Swede, 8/- to 14/- bag; do., 4/- to 6/- doz. bunch.

S.A. FRUITGROWERS' AND MARKET GARDENERS' ASSN. INC.
NEW "CEILING" PRICES SCHEDULE.

Class or Kind of Vegetable.	Growers' maximum price and ceiling wholesale price at East End Market or wholesale seller's premises.		Wholesale Margin.		Wholesale ceiling prices, Adelaide area (other than East End Market or Wholesale seller's premises).		Retail Margin.		Retail ceiling prices Adelaide area.	
	Col. 1.	Col. 2.	Col. 3.	Col. 4.	Col. 5.	Col. 6.	Col. 1.	Col. 2.	Col. 3.	Col. 4.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	lb.	lb.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Pumpkins or Trombones	11 6	3 0	14 6	0 0½	0 13					
Carrots or Parsnips—										
With tops	9 4	2 0	11 4	0 0½	0 13					
Without tops	18 8	2 0	20 8	0 0½	0 23					
White Turnips, Swede Turnips or Beetroot—										
With tops	7 0	2 0	9 0	0 0½	0 13					
Without tops	11 8	2 0	13 8	0 0½	0 2					
	doz. lb.	doz. lb.	doz. lb.	lb.	lb.					
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.					
Beans	11 0	1 3	12 3	0 3	1 2					
Rhubarb	2 6	0 6	3 0	0 1	0 3½					
	doz.	doz.	doz.	each.	each.					
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.					
Lettuce	2 6	0 6	3 0	0 1	0 2½					
Cucumbers	2 0	0 3	2 3	0 0½	0 2½					
Marrows	4 6	0 6	5 0	0 1	0 5½					
	doz.	doz.	doz.	per heads.	per head.					
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.					
Celery	6 3	0 9	7 0	0 13	0 8					
	per 28 lb.	per 28 lb.	per 28 lb.	lb.	lb.					
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.					
Peas	17 6	1 6	19 0	0 2½	0 10					

In Britain, the Women's Land Army, numbering 5,000 in 1939, has multiplied more than sixteen times during the war.

Cost of reciprocal lend-lease by Australia to the United States forces in the financial year 1943-44 totalled £110,000,000.



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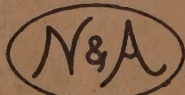
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Vacancy for Horticulturist

APPLICATIONS are invited by the New Zealand Government for the position of Horticulturist, Department of Agriculture, Wellington, New Zealand, at a salary up to £765 per annum (New Zealand currency) according to qualifications and experience, from applicants of approximately 30-40 years of age and having:—

1. Practical knowledge and experience of commercial and domestic production of flowers outside and under glass, and of shrubs, berry fruits and vegetables; of the diseases and pests of horticultural crops and their treatment; and of the grading, packing and marketing of the products of the foregoing horticultural crops.
2. Ability to impart instructions by lectures, demonstrations and correspondence; to write reports and papers upon horticultural subjects and to undertake organisation of horticultural industries.
3. A degree or diploma in horticulture granted by a recognised authority, with preference to applicants possessing in addition a degree in Agriculture.

Candidates must supply their full name, age and nationality, marital status, and furnish a statement giving full particulars as to their career and qualifications.

Applications, accompanied by copies of testimonials, should be lodged not later than the 30th September, 1944, and addressed to the Trade and Tourist Commissioner, Box 365, G.P.O., Sydney, from whom a statement of conditions of employment and general information can be obtained.

Primary Producers' Defence League

The annual meeting of the Melbourne Metropolitan District Council of the Fruitgrowers and Primary Producers' Defence League was held at East Doncaster on August 10th. Mr J. H. Tainton presided.

The annual report, which was adopted, referred to efforts to secure adequate complete fertilisers, such as blood and bone for orchards. Protests had been made regarding price fixing and grouping of Apples and Pears; the authorities had been consulted re new spraying plants, parts for existing outfits and release of manpower to step up production of this equipment. Increased supplies of nicotine sulphate were coming to hand. Tractor manufacturers had been asked to establish fully equipped power stations and an improved service was expected.

Correspondence included letters from Lt.-Col. R. S. Ryan, M.H.R., stating he was pressing for the issue of yearly balance sheets by the Apple and Pear Marketing Board; from Hon. N. Makin, stating that the manufacture of spraying plants was being expedited; from International Harvester Co., stating that requests for a Tractor Service Station near Blackburn was being favourably considered; from Ford Motor Co. Distributors, Malcolm Moore Ltd., agreeing to discuss the service question.

In opening the meeting Mr. W. J. Hutchinson, M.H.R., said the end of the war was in sight. We must ask ourselves what of the post-war world? he envisaged difficult peace conferences with all nations clamouring for world markets. He trusted the industry would reach harmony, particularly regarding export marketing.

Hon. G. L. Chandler, M.L.C., condemned the Apple and Pear Acquisition scheme. It was only suspended and growers should stick together to safeguard their rights.

Hon. W. H. Everard, M.L.A., urged growers to organise and jealously guard their right to sell their own produce in the Victoria Market.

Resolutions were carried expressing satisfaction with free marketing of Apples and Pears, and requesting early assurance of its continuance; seeking a reduction in the price of irrigation water; the release of suitable fungicides for controlling mould in cool store and in storage cases; that good quality secateurs and parts be made available; pledging full support to the proposal for establishing an experimental orchard in Southern Victoria; urging better lighting in the Victoria Market.

Mr. F. C. Pyke presented a report re growers' claims from the Apple and Pear Board. A resolution was carried expressing sympathy with Mr. Arnold T. Noble in his illness.

The Treasurer's report showed receipts, £16/10/-; expenses, £3/8/7; balance in hand, £13/1/5.

Office-bearers were re-elected—President, Mr. J. H. Tainton; Vice-President, Cr. R. Hillhouse; Committee—Messrs. C. Wallace, G. Peggie, and V. Reischick; Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. E. Handasyde; Treasurer, Mr. W. Payne.

Poultry Notes

MASH FOR POULTRY.

As a substitute for bran and pel-lard, which are in short supply in many districts, a poultry expert suggests the use of wheat-meal up to 50 per cent. and dry lucerne up to 15 per cent. of the mash food. These qualities, he says, are quite practicable and efficient in egg production.

Dry lucerne is to be had as finely-chaffed hay, meal or dust. If made from good samples harvested before flowering, it is of very little less nutritional value than bran. It is a very good component in a mash using wheatmeal, and 60 to 65 per cent. of the mash could consist of wheat-meal and lucerne combined.

While wheat-meal and dry lucerne increase the cost of the mash by some 15 per cent., mash forms only about half the ration, so that the total rise in cost would be about 7½ per cent. It is suggested that if the practice of feeding this mixture became general the increase could be met by a rise in the yearly average price of eggs.

Poultrymen could do much by extending their areas of lucerne so as to have a surplus to make hay as well as using it as a green feed. Where lucerne chaff is used, it should be a good leafy sample cut finely, preferably soaked overnight before being incorporated in the wet mash.

LICE ON FOWLS.

A new method for the control of lice on fowls has been tried and found very effective (writes Mr. W. D. Shew, Senior Veterinary Officer, in the "Journal of Agriculture"). Use one-quarter pint of lysol in three gallons of warm water in a four-gallon tin, the temperature at the commencement being 43 centigrade (109 degrees Fahrenheit), i.e. slightly warmer than blood heat. Hold the birds by the wings and lower all except the head into the solution, which should be quickly worked through the feathers by rubbing them up the wrong way. This operation takes about five seconds. Then immerse the head for about a second and remove the bird. Wipe down and squeeze the feathers to remove excess liquid. Treat the birds in the morning in reasonably good weather to give them an opportunity of drying out thoroughly. For the destruction of lice hatched after treatment a further immersion in from 10 to 12 days is necessary.

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Pig Notes

REDUCE WASTE IN PIG PRODUCTION.

To help the immediate requirements and to put the pig industry in a sound position to meet less favourable conditions which the future may bring, every practicable measure should be taken to reduce waste in pig production. The pig expert of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, Mr L. A. Downey, points out that considerable loss is incurred through the occurrence of litters which are small in numbers or light in individual pig weights and by slow growth to bacon weight. Such waste can be reduced by skilled pig husbandry, which includes the use of superior breeding stock, proper feeding methods, sanitary accommodation and measures to control internal and skin parasites of pigs. The Department of Agriculture is able and willing to advise farmers on the technical aspects of pig production.

There will not always be a surplus of wheat which the Government can supply at a subsidized price and at concession freight rates for pig feeding, and therefore pig-raising must be developed as far as practicable on the use of waste and by-products, to enable a substantial part of our pig meat to be produced at a cost not much above that of other meats pro-

duced on pasture, which is the cheapest stock food, but has only a limited use in pig nutrition.

Those many farmers who do not keep pigs should consider ways of using pigs to salvage waste on their farms and to return plant foods to their soil. Our slogan should be: "A few pigs on every farm."

D. OF I. BOOK HAS THE ANSWERS.

Every Australian serviceman overseas will receive a copy of "Know Australia!", a pocket-size handbook of general knowledge on Australia, written and produced by the Department of Information.

Done in question and answer form, the booklet will answer many of the queries a serviceman is likely to have put to him overseas, and will enlighten the interest of the questioner in Australia and its people.

Questions and answers deal with Australia's geography, climate, population capacity, standard of living, wage rates, primary and secondary industries, education system, cultural attainments, fauna, flora, sporting and recreational facilities, history, and migration possibilities.

Copies of the booklet, in an envelope inscribed, "Greetings from Australia," are being made available to American servicemen for despatch home.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS

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Science in Horticulture

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH into horticultural problems is being conducted in many parts of the world. Summaries of research bulletins are published by the Imperial Bureau of Horticulture, E. Malling, Eng., in the "Horticultural Abstracts." Here are some of them:

Commercial Hand Pollination Methods for Apples in the North-west.

IN SEASONS when insect activity during blossoming has been poor or in orchards where natural sources of pollen are scarce, hand pollination of Apples has increased yields enormously. A brief account is given of the various developments of the technique employed. In the present system the blossoms are collected when in the balloon stage, just before the anthers begin to dehisce, and the face of each is rubbed against an 8-mesh wire cloth screen fitted over a box or other suitable receptacle.

Even coarser screens are sometimes advised as speeding up collection. The debris that filters through can be screened out later when the pollen is placed in the curing tray to ripen in a warm ventilated atmosphere. The curing trays are often hand-made of paper, or lids of cardboard boxes may be used.

The proper stage for applying the pollen is when the anthers have started to dehisce. Application is made with a No. 4 or 5 pig-hair brush, sometimes with the bristles cut and otherwise treated so as to produce a flat surface capable of touching all parts of the pistil at the same time, for at least one pollen grain must adhere to each of the five parts of the pistil if a properly shaped Apple is to result. Pollen being stored until the blossoms are receptive should not be kept in tightly stoppered vessels. — J. C. Snyder, American Soc. of Hort. Science.

Toxicity of Nicotine Compounds to Newly Hatched Codling Moth Larvae.

LABORATORY TESTS of 31 compounds of nicotine were made against newly hatched codling larvae at Cornell University. Nicotine cuprocyanide proved to be the best material permitting only 8 per cent. entries in fruit sprayed with 0.5 lb. per 100 gal. and artificially weathered with 1 in. of rain. Fruit sprayed with 3 lb. lead arsenate per 100 gal. and similarly weathered sustained 44 per cent. entries. Some of the other compounds tested, especially those affected by weathering, might be improved by fine grinding, controlled precipitation or the use of supplements.—R. Hansberry, "Journal of Economic Entomology."

Lead Arsenate and Tricalcium Arsenate Combinations for the Control of Codling Moth.

SEVERAL ARSENIC SPRAY materials were tested in the experimental Jonathan orchards of the Kansas Agricultural Experi-

ment Station, Manhattan, U.S.A., with the object of determining the effectiveness in the control of codling moth, the relative freedom from spray injury of the foliage and the effect of oil upon arsenic residue removal.

Confirming results of previous experiments, lead arsenate-zinc-sulphate-summer oil sprays (4 lb. lead arsenate, 1 qt. Superla summer oil emulsion, 4 oz. zinc sulphate per 100 gallons) gave the best moth control and caused least leaf burn; 80.8 per cent. to 86.3 per cent. clean fruit were obtained. The zinc sulphate reduced injuries from lead arsenate.

Other sprays tested were: Tricalcium arsenate-bentonite, lead arsenate bentonite and lead arsenate alone. An apparent disadvantage of the zinc sulphate addition was that the excellent foliage did not allow the fruit to colour so well as on trees which had suffered from defoliation owing to spray injuries.

The application of hormone sprays, however, when the fruit started dropping resulted in the Apples remaining on the trees and colouring there. Acid wash reduced the arsenical residue to 0.025 grains of arsenic per pound of fruit or less.—R. L. Parker and P. G. Lamerson, "Jour. Econ. Entomology."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Orchard Work and Crop Prospects.

The rainfall for the month of July ranged from 693 points in the Pinjarra district to 851 points in the Mundaring inspectorate. These falls were satisfactory.

Although the harvesting of the Apple crop has been completed, quantities held in growers' packing sheds are still being utilised for processing purposes. Processing of Apple juices commenced during the month at Donnybrook.

Citrus fruits are being delivered in greater quantities, both to the Metropolitan Markets and to the juice factory operated by Plaimar & Co. Ltd. The quality of the Navel's has improved. During the month Mandarins brought high prices, and good prices were received for Lemons.

The setting of the Loquat crop has been heavy, and it is expected that unless the trees are well thinned there will be a preponderance of small and inferior fruit.

A somewhat unusual feature noticed during the month was the very early blossoming of early Peach varieties, notably Dunhelm. Delaware Plums are also showing promise of blossoming in the near future, and many Orange trees affected by the dry growing conditions of the last growing season are also showing signs of early flowering.

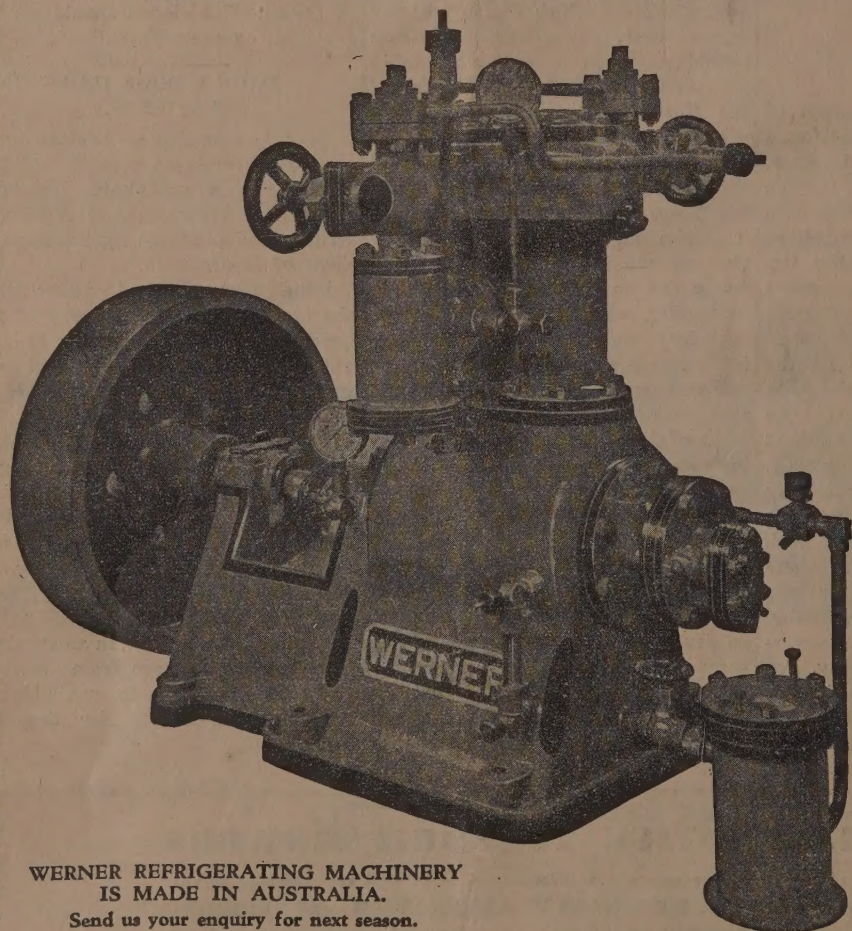
Pruning has commenced in all fruit growing districts, but it is expected that owing to the shortage of labour this work will not be completed. In the vine growing districts, in order to cope with the work, pruning commenced very early. This practice is not recommended.

The incidence of disease during the month has not been serious, particularly as fruit fly infestation has been at a minimum, and no fruit has been condemned on account of infestation. Brown Rot is showing up on Navel's, but so far the disease has mainly affected the foliage.—H. R. Powell, Supt. of Horticulture.

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